



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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**Your Reference:** HL74401/007/ASG/par  
**Application No:** GB 0310795.0

12 June 2003

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:**  
**Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

**Latest date for reply:** 21 July 2003

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

#### **Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 15 July 2003. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

#### **Amendment/withdrawal**

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. No reminder will be issued. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: "URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

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<sup>†</sup>Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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**You should also note that the normal, unextended period allowed for complying fully with the requirements of the Act will end on 28 August 2003. However, if you need extra time to settle any remaining objections you are entitled to extend that period by one month by filing Patents Form 52/77 and fee.**

Yours faithfully

D.B. Pepper  
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0310795.0  
 Claims searched: 1 and 2

Examiner: D.B. Pepper  
 Date of search: 11 June 2003

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A		SU 1324722 A (Volkov et al)
A		SU 1077803 A (Alekseenko et al)

### Categories:

K	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	B	Parent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO, & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>V</sup>:

E1F, B3J

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>T</sup>:

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO



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Examiner: D.B.Pepper  
Tel: 01633 814751  
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## Patents Act 1977 Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

### Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 28 May 2003.

### Allowance of the divisional date

2. Your request that this application be treated as having been filed on 23 February 2000, which is the same date of filing as your earlier application number GB 0004285.3, has been allowed.

### Plurality of invention

3. Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:

- a) the apparatus of claim 1 characterised by the lubrication assembly; and
- b) the method of claim 2 characterised by the application of a constant axial force.

This objection has been raised because the common subject matter of claims 1 and 2, i.e. means for lubricating the interface between the expansion cone and the tubular member is disclosed in SU 1324722 and SU 1077803, copies of the specifications and abstracts enclosed.

4. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description.

### Clarity and consistency

5. Claim 1 is not clear because it would appear from line 1 of the claim that the apparatus is suitable for use with a tubular member whereas, from line 3 of the claim, it would appear that the tubular member forms part of the apparatus.

6. The references in claim 1 to "the annular member" do not have an antecedent.

7. Inconsistencies between claims 1 and 2, the title and the description on pages 2-



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[ Examination Report contd. ]

7,10,11 and 78-88 should be removed. Also the detailed description should be amended to clearly indicate which figures lie within the scope of the invention.

#### Non-metric units

8. As agreed in a telephone conversation with your agent, a single equivalent metric value for each of the repeating non-metric values mentioned throughout your specification may be included at the start of the detailed description rather than alongside each of the non-metric values.

#### Other

9. The US patent application serial numbers should be inserted in the specification on pages 13-16,39,40,43,70 and 71.

#### Publication

10. Publication of this application is proceeding concurrently.

none

none

none

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PN - SU1324722 A 19870723  
PD - 1987-07-23  
PR - SU19864042743 19860326  
OPD - 1986-03-26  
TI - ARRANGEMENT FOR EXPANDING ROUND BILLETS  
IN - VOLKOV YURIJ A (SU);FINOGENOV VYACHESLAV N (SU);  
PASHKEVICH ANATOLIJ G (SU);PREKHOV ALEKSANDR V (SU);  
GORLENKO ALEKSANDR M (SU)  
PA - VOLKOV YURIJ A (SU);FINOGENOV VYACHESLAV N (SU);  
PASHKEVICH ANATOLIJ G (SU);PREKHOV ALEKSANDR V (SU);  
GORLENKO ALEKSANDR M (SU)  
IC - B21D41/02

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TI - Hot expanding of tubular components - employs a ram working  
inside the conical die to force out lubricant onto the contact areas  
between the die and component  
PR - SU19864042743 19860326  
PN - SU1324722 A 19870723 DW198809 002pp  
PA - (VOLK-I) VOLKOV YU A  
IC - B21D41/02  
IN - FINOGENOV V N; PASHKEVICH A G; VOLKOV Y U A  
AB - SU1324722 A press for hot expanding of tubular components  
incorporates a conical die with a system of lubricating channels and  
an induction heater interacting with an internally cooled plunger.  
- The tubular component (7) is inserted over the cooled plunger (4)  
and on the downstroke of the upper plate (6) spreads over the  
conical surface of the die (1), pre-heated by the induction heater  
coil (8) whilst simultaneously forcing graphite lubricant from the  
inner chamber (B) onto the interface.  
- ADVANTAGE - This extends the functional range of the press and  
facilitates lubrication. Bul.27/23.7.87(1/1)  
OPD - 1986-03-26  
AN - 1988-062330 [09]

none

none

none

none

none

none

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PN - SU1077803 A 19840307  
PD - 1984-03-07  
PR - SU19823504963 19821025  
OPD - 1982-10-25  
TI - APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING HEAT-SHRINKING TUBING  
IN - ALEKSEENKO ALEKSEJ G; REKS VLADIMIR P; GABITOV KAMIL G  
PA - NOVOSIB PT B VNIIPROEKTELEKTRO (SU)  
EC - B29C61/08

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TI - Equipment for making thermosetting pipes - has expanding mandrel with cylindrical shaping part where lubricant is spread on heated pipe  
PR - SU19823504963 19821025  
PN - SU1077803 A 19840307 DW198443 003pp  
PA - (NSVN-R) NOVOS VNIIPROEKTELE  
IC - B29C17/02  
IN - ALEKSEENKO A G; GABITOV K G; REKS V P  
AB - SU1077803 The equipment consists of heater (11), expanding mandrel with conical inlet part, and hollow cylindrical shaping part, in the wall of which are holes for the lubrication to emerge, plus cooler (12) and mechanism for moving the pipes. Inside the hollow cylindrical part (3) is a piston (4) which is powered by the spring (6), with spring-loaded balls placed in the holes and projecting above the surface.  
- USE/ADVANTAGE - In the making of plastic pipes with a means for widening out the pipes, with extended possibilities of manufacture.  
- (3pp Dwg.No.1/2)  
OPD - 1982-10-25  
AN - 1984-268726 [43]

none

none

none

TOTAL P.10